

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:651

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001

ENCOURAGEMENT TO INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

SHANKERSINH VAGHELA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that products of multinational companies are being encouraged and it is being said that the Indian agricultural products are pollutants;
- (b) whether the Indian agriculture has reached on the verge of collapse as a result thereof;
- (c) if so, the details of the policy framed for this purpose; and
- (d) the effective steps being taken to encourage the use of Indian agricultural products?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): No such information has been received by the Government.

(c) & (d): With a view to encouraging the use of Indian agricultural products in general and specially and in the international market, the Government has taken effective steps such as provision of assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of knowhow of farmers, provision of soft loans for setting up grading/processing centers and quality testing equipment, provision of assistance for setting up laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, lack of contamination and freedom from bacteria and fungi, and provision of financial assistance to the exporters/growers for the development infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialized transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses). The long-term Export Policy lays stress on the promotion of agricultural exports. The Policy envisages the creation of Agri Export Zones for the end to end development foreexport of specific products from a geographically contiguous area. These zones are to be identified by the respected State Government who would also evolve a comprehensive package of services such as provision of pre/post harvest treatment and operations, plant protection, processing, storage and related research and development. The agro sector would also be able to avail of the Exim Policy uannounced by the Government, on the 31st March, 2001, also envisages the entitlement of Agri-exporters for recognition as Export House/Trading House/StarTrading House/Super Star Trading House on achieving 1/3rd of the threshold limit prescribed foreexports of other goods.